



Tuolumne County Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes

For the Meeting on October 2, 2024

2024 Natural Resource Members (or assigned delegates)	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
Anaiah Kirk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
Kathleen Haff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
Don Perkins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
Pete Kampa		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
Adam Mazurkiewicz		✓	✓	E	✓		E	E		✓		
Dianna Beasley		✓	A	A	A		A	✓		✓		
Dick Gaiser	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	A		E		
Chris Trott		✓	✓	E	✓		✓	✓		E		
Jim Maddox	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		E	✓		E		
Jim Phelan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E												

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Kirk called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. and confirmed a quorum was present.
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Anaiah Kirk, Vice-Chair Kathleen Haff, Don Perkins, Pete Kampa, Joy Meller on behalf of Hetch Hetchy, Dianna, Beasley, Jim Phelan, and CAO staff Liz Peterson and Sean Hembree
3. **PUBLIC FORUM:** *(The public may speak on any item not on the printed agenda. No action may be taken by the Committee. The amount of time allocated for the public forum is limited to 15 minutes.)* – None
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** In consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on August 7, 2024, Jim Phelan made a motion to approve the minutes. Kathleen Haff seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
5. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS:**
 - a. Reports on Pinecrest Day Use Impacts on Safety and Natural Resources
 - i. Report on Conditions at The Lake and Overview of Recent Meetings (Chair Kirk) – Supervisor Kirk noted that overuse challenges have been problematic over the last several years but that COVID and subsequent law enforcement capacity has been a major obstacle to addressing the challenge. He noted the recent community meeting in Pinecrest

conversations with Stanislaus National Forest, and Sheriff Department leadership to address the challenge. Chair Kirk noted that the focus of the days meeting will be to address compliance challenges at the Lake during high use periods, as it applies to emergency access and community egress as well as environmental protection.

- ii. Sheriff's Office Report – Sheriff Vasquez noted that there has been an increase in Sheriff Department staffing allowing 'meaningful enforcement' (regularly scheduled shifts dedicated to the area). He further noted that there is some federal funding to support Sheriff Dept. law enforcement presence in the National Forest, but this includes a responsibility to other components such as cannabis and OHV trail use enforcement. Sheriff Vasquez further reported that his department is drafting an ordinance for consideration by the Board of Supervisors to increase parking violation fines on County roads to a rate that is equivalent to State (Cal Trans) amounts.
- iii. Stanislaus National Forest Report – District Ranger, Shawn Winstead reported that in addition to the comments already noted, there are opportunities to educate the public about other local destinations with better access and fewer crowds such as Beardsley Reservoir. Winstead further noted that the Forests 2025 budget is expected to impact Forest law enforcement staffing but that the Stanislaus Forest is engaged to collaborate to improve day-use conditions at Pinecrest.

b. Staff Reports and Recommendations (postponed)

6. CONSIDERATION OF PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON POTENTIAL ACTIONS TO MITIGATE PINECREST LAKE OVERUSE, TO INCLUDE:

- a. No Parking Signage and Fire Lane Marking
- b. Citation Enforcement and Law Enforcement Staffing
- c. Supplemental Funding Opportunities

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 2, 2024 NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING DISCUSSION	
REGARDING PINECREST LAKE DAYUSE MANAGEMENT	
SHORT-TERM ACTIONS (To be Completed by Memorial Day, 2025)	
Consideration of a draft ordinance by the Board of Supervisors to increase County parking citation fines consistent with equivalent state citations.	County Counsel, (Sheriff Dept. in advisor capacity)
Complete striping of designated fire lane sections at Pinecrest.	Public Works
Consider changes to existing ordinances to update fire lane parking fee structure and locations for violations at identified narrow roads and egress communities.	Various Departments

Consider mobile and fixed Variable Message Signage (VMS) to provide advanced notice of Pinecrest parking conditions, alternative destinations, and shuttle/overflow parking options.	STF, CAL TRANS
Coordinate with Visit Tuolumne on notification for expected high-use days and alternative destinations (e.g., Beardsley, Clarks Fork, Kennedy Meadows, Aspen Meadows).	Visit Tuolumne, STF
Design new signs for Pinecrest roads/beaches to include prohibited activities and related fines - feature the USFS and Sheriff logos, (to be created after the ordinance is finalized).	STF, Sheriff
Discuss shuttle service options for high-use weekends/holidays, with potential expansion to all weekends from June through August.	Dodge Ridge, TCTC, other transportation agencies
FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS AND ONGOING DISCUSSIONS	
Continue discussions with Kim/McClintock's office regarding the Auburn study and grants for S/O funding.	Kim, Sheriff, OES/CAO staff
Consider additional meetings with stakeholders to consider fee-based parking options.	

7. ADJOURNED: Chair Kirk adjourned the meeting at 11:03 A.M.